

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 18, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 15-17, 19-20, 30-32 and 34-35 have been amended and claims 3, 18, 33 have been canceled. Claims 1-2, 4-17, 19-32 and 34-35 are pending. Reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks provided herein below and withdrawal of the present rejections are respectfully requested.

In paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 3, 15, 18, 30 and 33-35 were objected to because of informalities.

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection, but in the interest of expediting prosecution have either canceled the claims or amended their dependency to overcome the objection.

In paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 16 and 31 were rejected under § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gill ('751). Claims 2-15, 17-33 and 32-25 were objected to as being objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, but in the interest of expediting prosecution have amended claims to more particularly distinguish the invention over the cited reference.

The '751 patent discloses a hard bias layer along side the entire length of the sensor stack.

In contrast, the independent claims of the present application recite a bias layer that is adjacent only the top self-pinned layer. An additional hard bias layer is provided in dependent

claims 2, 17 and 32. The additional hard bias layer is separated from the biasing layer by a metal oxide layer and does not extend to the top of the top self-spinned layer.


Accordingly, the '751 patent fails to disclose, teach or suggest a biasing layer disposed adjacent only the top self-pinned layer in a passive region for pinning the top self-pinned layer.

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicant, David W. Lynch, at 423-757-0264.

Respectfully submitted,

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